

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

New Claim 16 has been added, which replaces Claim 7, and which divides the process into two alternative tracks, thus providing antecedent basis when steps (g) and (h) precede step (f). Claim 8 has been amended to depend on Claim 16.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection would now appear to be moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-6 and 9-15. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

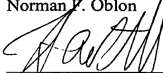
Respectfully submitted,

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